**Decline in Export of Tobacco**

198. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of tobacoo is declining; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The exports of tobacco reached an all time high of 132.32 M. Kg,s during 1981-82 valued at Rs. 233.39 crores. The exports have since then been generally declining, though during 1989-90 the exports of tobacco rose to an estimated 73.69 M. Kgs. valued at Rs. 172.02 crores from 49.15 M. Kgs. valued at Rs. 116.65 crores during previous year. The demand for tobacco is generally going down due to anti smoking campaign the world over.

(b) Cash Compensatory Support @ 5% has been granted on export of VFC tobacco and cigarettes. Efforts are under way to identify and develop varieties having greater acceptability in overseas markets. Delegations are also being mounted to countries where there is potential for sale of Indian tobacco.

**Women Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court**

199. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of women judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) what is their percentage to the total number of judges; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to increase their strength?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) As on 30-4-1990, there was one woman judge out of 25 Judges in the Supreme Court of India. On the same date, there were 11 women Judges out of 377 Judges in the various High Courts of the country.

(c) The Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts have been again requested to recommend woman lawyers and other persons from the Bar belonging to the weaker sections of society, who are suitable for appintment as High Court Judges, so that they may be provided representation on the Bench of High Courts.

**SC/ST Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court**

200. DR.. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court at present; and

(b) what is their percentage to the total number of judges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) As on 30-4-1990, against the actual strength of 25 Judges, there were 2 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes in the Supreme Court of India. On the same date, against the actual strength of 377 Judges/ Additional Judges, there were 9 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and 3 Judges belonging to Scheduled Tribes in various High Courts of the country.

**आबिद हुसैन समिति की रिपोर्ट' का अध्ययन करने के लिए सचिवों की एक समिति का गठन**

201. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
**सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा:**

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने कपड़ा नीति के संबंध में गठित की गई आबिद हुसैन समिति की रिपोर्ट का अध्ययन करने की लिए सचिवों की एक समिति गठित की है;